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● **Comments:**

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office, facsimile no. (571) 273-8300, on the date shown below.  
Dated: 5-25-06 Signature: Stephanie A. Fresh  
(Stephanie A. Fresh)

Docket No.: 60680-1894  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Thomas J. Smith et al.

Application No.: 10/804,332

Confirmation No.: 7014

Filed: March 19, 2004

Art Unit: 3745

For: PISTON RING COATING

Examiner: F. D. Lopez

**RESPONSE AFTER FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

MS AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Applicant submits this response to the Office Action dated March 31, 2006:

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 2 of this paper.